

Bulfinch, the building was completed in 1796. On May 11 of that year, it was dedicated by Connecticut's Revolutionary War statesman and first Governor, Oliver Wolcott.

For the next 82 years, the Old State House was the scene of both glorious and tragic moments in Connecticut's history. Here, the notorious Amistad trial took place; here they drafted the laws to incarcerate Prudence Crandall. But here, too, Oliver Ellsworth resigned as U.S. Senator to become the third Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Here, Lafayette and Marshall Foch were honored. Here, Connecticut's constitutional conventions were held, first in 1818 and again, in 1965. Here, nine sitting Presidents of the United States visited: John Adams, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses Grant, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George Bush.

When the State outgrew the building in 1878, the Old State House served as Hartford's city hall for 37 years. It was later used as a community center for the Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Hartford Symphony. When the Connecticut River flooded, the Old State House was a dry shelter on high ground. In wartime, it was a bond center. And always, it has served the citizens of Connecticut.

Now, on the 200th anniversary of its opening, the Old State House will again be a lively presence in the center of Connecticut's capital city. Under the visionary stewardship of Wilson H. Faude, the executive director of the Connecticut Old State House, and the Old State House Association, the building has undergone a \$12-million metamorphosis that will usher in a new era of living history, art and museum exhibits, educational programs and entertainment. Citizens of Hartford, CT, and the Nation celebrate the rebirth of this landmark, a visible symbol of our proud and diverse heritage, a gift to our children and grandchildren, and a rallying point for the community as we look ahead to the future.

Mr. Speaker, the reopening of the Old State House is an important moment in the history of Hartford and of Connecticut, and I am honored to submit these commemorative remarks in order to share it with my colleagues.

THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF CLARA ALSTON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 1996

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Clara Alston, a constituent and friend of mine.

Clara was born in Demopolis, AL, on May 3, 1906, to parents Ernest and Daisy. Clara moved with her family to Detroit when she was 13, and met her husband, Spencer James Alston there in 1921. Clara married Spencer in 1924, and they raised five children in Detroit. They joined Hartford Avenue Baptist Church, where Clara is still a member today.

Clara is the matriarch of a tremendous family in southeast Michigan. She today has over 50 grand, great grand, and great-great grand children.

Mr. Speaker, today we do not hear enough news about the great things that are happening in families in America's big cities. We too often hear the stories of broken homes and failing families. That is why I am asking that we celebrate the 90th birthday of Clara Alston. She raised five children in Detroit. She has lived a long and productive life as mother, wife, grandmother, and as an artist and gardener. She is the first person in her family to reach 90 years of age, and she is the pride and joy of her large family.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 4, Clara Alston's family and friends are getting together to celebrate her 90th birthday. I want to wish Clara a wonderful and beautiful day for her special birthday.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE HALL OF FAME RUN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 18th Annual Bronx Community College Hall of Fame Run, a 10-kilometer race sponsored by Bronx Community College. This year's race will be held tomorrow starting from Bronx Community College in my congressional district of the South Bronx, New York.

The Bronx Community College Hall of Fame Run was established in 1979 under the leadership of former Bronx Community College president Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. and continues under the presidency of Dr. Leo A. Corbie. The race brings together runners of all ages from the five boroughs of New York City to compete in a wholesome community event.

The run was named after the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national landmark established in 1900 to honor the achievements of men and women in science, the arts, humanities, business, and government. This beautiful landmark, designed by architect Stanford White, features a granite colonnade containing the bronze busts of 97 distinguished Americans.

I have had the opportunity to participate in 15 of the 17 Bronx Community College Hall of Fame Runs and I am thrilled to be running in this year's race. The event, which was originally a 10-kilometer race, now includes a 10-kilometer walk and a 2-mile fitness walk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bronx Community College Hall of Fame Run in its 18th year of uniting the community through healthy competition.